



# COFFS HARBOUR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

## MINUTES AND NOTICE OF MEETING

### MINUTES OF MARCH MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT BOAMBEE HALL, MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> of MARCH, 2014.

**PRESENT:** 10 members plus 2 interested guests.

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:05pm with President, Win Howard in the chair.

**APOLOGIES:** Peter Black, Frank Kennedy & Camilla Whitire

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Adopted as circulated by e-mail

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** Nil.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**IN:** Nil

**OUT:** Nil

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Discussion on a new meeting venue that is quieter than our present site; Win, Gerjo & Roberto to investigate Boambee East Community Centre.
- Further general discussions regarding sourcing suitable laser pointers.
- Michael Hope has a pair of binoculars he would like to donate to anyone who would appreciate them.

**THE TOPIC:** Red Giants

Roy presented a handout on the scale of Red Giants and some interesting information

**TOPIC FOR NEXT MEETING:** Mars

**REPORTS FROM MEMBERS:**

- Win spoke of Ganymede casting a shadow on Jupiter and the large amount of planets visible currently (mornings at 5am)... Mercury-low in the east; Venus-above Mercury; Saturn-overhead; Mars-further to the west; & Jupiter recently set to the west.
- Michael reported viewing the Jewel Box NGC 4755
- Sarah appreciated viewing the Moon. Win discussed green and polarised moon filters.

**REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:** *(this material is collected from the internet each month and presented in an edited form).*

1. Gaia “Billion-Star Surveyor” returns test image <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26073173>
2. Oldest Known Star Discovered <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/02/10/3941073.htm>
3. US Scientists Achieve “Turning Point” in Fusion Energy Quest  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-13/us-scientists-achieve-27turning-point27-in-fusion-energy-quest/5258788>
4. Astronomy’s Alpha Male [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/seth-shostak/astromys-alpha-male\\_b\\_4824025.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/seth-shostak/astromys-alpha-male_b_4824025.html)
5. Rock Around the Clock: Zircon Crystal is the Oldest Piece of Earth  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/23/us-science-rock-idUSBREA1M12A20140223>
6. Black Hole May Devour Gas Cloud in Rare Sighting  
<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/black-hole-may-devour-gas-cloud-in-rare-sighting-20140218-32yff.html>
7. Star-Forming Cloud Seen from Antarctica <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2014/02/25/3949110.htm>
8. Biggest Observed Meteorite Impact Hits Moon <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26325934>
9. Population of Known Alien Planets Nearly Doubles as NASA Discovers 715 New Worlds  
<http://www.space.com/24824-alien-planets-population-doubles-nasa-kepler.html>

**CLOSURE AND FUTURE MEETING TIMES:**

The next monthly meeting will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2014, again at Boambee Hall at 7:00pm, all members and interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Following the meeting when we proceeded outside for some viewing time.

**CHAS TELESCOPE:**

Roberto Cornale  
Secretary